

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend page 7, lines 3-20, as follows:

As may be seen in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, the disk ends 42 and 44 may be chamfered at both ends, one end, or no end. Where flexion and extension require, the bracket ends 17 and 19 may be chamfered and upon rotation the disk 26 will halt the degree of rotation as will be understood by one skilled in the art. For example, Fig. 2 shows bracket ends 17 and 19 chamfered and disk end 44 squared off. Again, the arrows in Fig. 2 illustrate that flexion and extension are available with the present invention. Fig. 2 further shows that when the present stabilizer 10 ~~invention 22~~ is assembled the vertical plates 34 align substantially along the same longitudinal axis L.

In more detail, now referring to Fig. 3, it may be seen that the top arcuate side 23 of upper bracket 22 and the bottom arcuate side 25 of lower bracket 24 are roughened or textured. These ~~bi-convex~~ arcuate sides 23 and 25 of stabilizer 10 are provided with a plurality of teeth or ridges 50 for biting or gripping into the adjacent vertebrae 16 and 18. Those skilled in the art who have the benefit of this disclosure will recognize the sides 23 and 25 of the stabilizer 10 need not define a true arch which is symmetrical. It will also be recognized that the sides 23 and 25 need not be provided with the serrations 50 to bite into the vertebrae. This biting function can also be accomplished by providing the sides 23 and 25 with multiple steps formed in right angles along sides 23 and 25 or by simply knurling the surfaces of these sides.

As may be seen in Fig. 3, the disk member 26 has only one interlocking member 40 on the rear end 44 on the disk member and only one interlocking member 39 on the front end 42 of the disk member.

Please amend page 9, lines 7-16, as follows:

Turning to Fig. 5, another embodiment of the present invention 10F may be seen. The key distinction of this embodiment relates to the interlocking ribs 38F and 40F. The central height  $H_c$  of the ribs on the bottom side 69 of bracket 24 ~~brackets 34~~ is greater than the end height  $H_e$  of the inwardly slanting side walls 91. The grooves 39F and 41F in disk 26F have depths  $D_g$  which are greater than the central height  $H_c$ . This arrangement, in coordination with the slanting walls 91, allows for the brackets (attached to the vertebrae) to flex, extend, and move laterally with a very slight twisting operation. At the same time, the spinal column is stabilized. As may be seen in Fig. 5, the grooves 39F and 41F may be fitted with roller bearings 52 and 54 to reduce frictional forces as previously discussed with Fig. 3